

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0029] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

Alumina-coated Silica Sol (1056, Nalco Chemicals) containing 30 20% solids of colloidal silica (SiO_2) coated with alumina (Al_2O_3) in water was mixed in a blender with submicron alumina powder (SM-8, Baikowski). The matrix contained 57 wt% of alumina-coated silica sol and 43 wt% of alumina powder. Several drops of nitric acid (about 0.1%) were added to the matrix to balance the pH. The matrix was then ball milled with alumina media for 4 hours before infiltrating into the fabric. The fabric was infiltrated by the same method as described in Example 1.

Please replace Paragraph [0030] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

Silica Sol (2327, Nalco Chemicals) containing 40—20% solids of colloidal silica (SiO_2) in water was mixed in a blender with submicron alumina powder (SM-8, Baikowski). The matrix contained 57 wt% of silica sol and 43 wt% of alumina powder. Several drops of nitric acid (about 0.1%) were added to the matrix to balance the pH. The matrix was then ball milled with alumina media for 4 hours before infiltrating into the fabric. The fabric was infiltrated by the same method as described in Example 1.